

Environment Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5330 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS.

Vote Date: 3/13/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

CO-SPONSORS:

Rep. Kenneth Gucker, 138th Dist.

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Rep. Nicholas Menapace, 37th Dist.

Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th Dist.

Rep. Jane M. Garibay, 60th Dist.

Rep. Patricia A. Dillon, 92nd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a working group to develop a plan for funding the state's conservation program for wildlife not usually harvested.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Requires the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to implement the state's wildlife action plan through an expanded conservation program, establishes a legislative working group to develop funding and implementation recommendations for the program, and allows revenue from wildlife-related merchandise to support such conservation efforts.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Nathan Frohling, Director of External Affairs, The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy Supports HB 5330 because this bill would 1) create a working group to plan for funding, 2) add a wildlife veterinarian to the state's wildlife programs (expanding Connecticut's ability to monitor and respond to the needs of our wildlife), 3)

specify that donations to the wildlife conservation program are allocated to the work of the plan and 4) align existing wildlife conservation programs with the Wildlife Action Plan.

Robert La France, Director of Policy for CT, National Audubon Society

The Audubon Society thanks the Environment Committee for raising HB 5330. In November 2025, Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan was officially approved by the federal government (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Unfortunately, DEEP currently lacks the resources to meet the basic state conservation goals. If passed, HB 5330 will:

Facilitate the implementation of the 2025-2035 Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan

Expand resource inventory measures to include conservation action tracker measures and the monitoring of environmental, biodiversity, and climate change impacts.

Implement Conservation Opportunity Areas

Ensure that any revenue donated or received to be benefit traditionally non-harvested wildlife be allocated to the non-harvested wildlife program from the conservation program already established under 26-107f. There is also a provision for a wildlife veterinarian.

Piping Plovers, Golden-winded Warblers, and Saltmarsh Sparrows are just a few of the 170 bird species whose conservation needs are recognized as high priority in the recently approved WAP. They will benefit from the passage of HB 5330.

William Hyatt, Vice-Chair, Connecticut Fisheries Advisory Council

The Connecticut Fisheries Advisory Council supports HB 5330 with some clarification and improvement. It should be made clear in the language of the bill that the term "wildlife" includes fish and other aquatic life as per the definition in Sec.26-1 of the CGS. The FAC also recommends the language pertaining to membership on the work group be amended to ensure participation of a least one member with fisheries/aquatic expertise. This included Federally listed short nose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon, depleted populations of river herring, and declining populations of brook trout.

The Following Groups Support HB 5330:

Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Keith Cagle, President, Friends of CT Sportsmen

Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director, CT Land Conservation Council

Dave Rauch, Secretary, Meriden Conservation Commission

Alan Siniscalchi, President, Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission

Joyce Leiz, Executive Director, Connecticut Audubon Society

Kathy Czepiel, CT Land Protection Manager, Save the Sound

8 Residents of Connecticut sent in Testimony in Support of HB 5330

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Judy Ganswindt

Date: March 26, 2026